

Classification

When an individual comes to prison, the Division of Prisons is concerned about the placement of that person in one of the many facilities throughout the state.

The purpose of the classification process is to assign the inmate to a facility that can best meet the educational, vocational, physical health, mental health, and other treatment needs. Additionally, classification is necessary to ensure the safety of the general public and the needs of the Division.

How is it determined where an inmate will be housed?

Inmates are initially classified based on conduct, types of criminal offenses (misdemeanor or felon), sentence length, and other factors. Many factors are looked at during classification reviews, including an inmates's current and past criminal behavior, their adjustment to prison, including institutional violence, escapes, and other rule violations, as well as job or program performance, current age, and amount of time served versus time remaining to be served.

All inmates convicted of misdemeanor crimes are in minimum custody only. Inmates convicted of felony crimes may be promoted to minimum custody once they are within 60 months of release or within 60 months of their parole eligibility date.

All inmates undergo routine custody reviews at which time their current custody is looked at to determine if they are appropriately assigned. Progression to a less restrictive custody grade is a privilege granted to inmates and is awarded by them obeying rules and meeting other mandatory requirements.